

What is claimed is:

1. A method for selecting a swapping technique from a group consisting of a bit-swapping and a gain-swapping techniques in a discrete multi-tone (DMT) system having multiple sub-channels, gain factor constraints, a threshold index value (T),  
5 and a maximum mean square error ( $MSE_{max}$ ) and a minimum mean square error ( $MSE_{min}$ ), the method comprising:  
determining a first index value (I) and a second index value (J) based on  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $MSE_{min}$  and said gain factor constraints according to a predetermined manner, I denoting range of improvement when adopting the gain-swapping as the swapping  
10 technique, and J denoting range of improvement when adopting a combination of the gain-swapping and the bit-swapping as the swapping technique;  
determine whether larger one of I and J is larger than T;  
if the larger one of I and J is larger than T, determining whether I is equal to or larger than J; and selecting the gain-swapping as the swapping technique if I is  
15 equal to or larger than J.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of  
selecting a combination of gain-swapping and bit-swapping as the swapping  
20 technique if I is smaller than J.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint ( $G_{cm}$ ) and a minimum gain factor constraint ( $G_{cn}$ ),  $g_{max}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ , said predetermined manner comprises

the steps of:

obtaining a first gain margin value (Gmv1) by subtracting  $g_{\max}$  from Gcm, and

obtaining a second gain margin value (Gmv2) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{\min}$ ;

obtaining a first parameter (P1) by subtracting  $MSE_{\min}$  from  $MSE_{\max}$ ; and

- 5 obtaining the I by doubling a smallest one of the group consisting of Gmv1, Gmv2 and  $(0.5*P1)$ .

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{\max}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{\max}$ ,  $g_{\min}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{\min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denotes an arithmetic average of  $MSE_{\max}$  and  $MSE_{\min}$  after bit-swapping and  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{\max}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is smaller than  $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

- 15 obtaining a third gain margin value (Gmv3) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{\max}$ , and obtaining a fourth gain margin value (Gmv4) by subtracting  $g_{\min}$  from Gcm; obtaining a second parameter (P2) by subtracting  $MSE_{maxbs}$  from  $MSE_{minbs}$ ; obtaining a third parameter (P3) by subtracting  $MSE_{maxbs}$  and a smallest one of the group, consisting of Gmv3, Gmv4 and  $(0.5*P2)$ , from  $MSE_{avgbs}$ ; and
- 20 obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{\min}$  and  $(2*P3)$  from  $MSE_{\max}$ .

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{\max}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{\max}$ ,  $g_{\min}$  denotes the

gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denoted the arithmetic average of  $MSE_{max}$  and  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping and  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{max}$  after bit-swapping and  $MSE_{minbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is not smaller than  $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the

5 steps of:

obtaining a fifth gain margin value (Gmv5) by subtracting  $g_{max}$  from Gcm, and  
obtaining a sixth gain margin value (Gmv6) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{min}$ ;  
obtaining a fourth parameter (P4) by subtracting  $MSE_{minbs}$  from  $MSE_{maxbs}$ ;  
obtaining a fifth parameter (P5) by subtracting  $MSE_{avgbs}$  and a smallest one of the  
10 group, consisting of Gmv5, Gmv6 and  $(0.5*P4)$ , from  $MSE_{maxbs}$ ; and  
obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  and  $(2*P5)$  from  $MSE_{max}$ .

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint

15 (Gcn),  $g_{max}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denotes the arithmetic average of  $MSE_{max}$  and  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{max}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{minbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is smaller than  $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

20 obtaining a seventh gain margin value (Gmv7) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{max}$ , and  
obtaining a eighth gain margin value (Gmv8) by subtracting  $g_{min}$  from Gcm;  
obtaining a sixth parameter (P6) by subtracting  $MSE_{maxbs}$  from  $MSE_{minbs}$ ;  
obtaining a seventh parameter (P7) by subtracting a smallest one of the group, consisting of Gmv7, Gmv8 and  $(0.5*P6)$ , and  $MSE_{avgbs}$  from  $MSE_{minbs}$ ; and

obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  and  $(2*P7)$  from  $MSE_{max}$ .

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{max}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denotes the arithmetic average of  $MSE_{max}$  and  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{max}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{minbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is not smaller than  $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:
- 10 obtaining a ninth gain margin value (Gmv 9) by subtracting  $g_{max}$  from Gcm, and obtaining a tenth gain margin value (Gmv10) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{min}$ ;
- obtaining a eighth parameter (P8) by subtracting  $MSE_{minbs}$  from  $MSE_{maxbs}$ ;
- obtaining a ninth parameter (P9) by subtracting  $MSE_{minbs}$  and a smallest one of the group, consisting of Gmv9, Gmv10 and  $(0.5*P8)$ , from  $MSE_{avgbs}$ ; and
- 15 obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  and  $(2*P9)$  from  $MSE_{max}$ .

8. A method for performing gain-swapping in a discrete multi-tone (DMT) system having multiple sub-channels, gain factor constraints, and a maximum mean square error ( $MSE_{max}$ ) and a minimum mean square error ( $MSE_{min}$ ), wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{max}$  denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ , said method comprising the steps of:
- 20 obtaining an eleventh gain margin value (Gmv11) by subtracting  $g_{max}$  from Gcm,

- and obtaining a twelfth gain margin value (Gmv12) by subtracting  $G_{cn}$  from  $g_{min}$ ;
- obtaining a tenth parameter (P10) by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  from  $MSE_{max}$ ;
- obtaining the value MIN of the smallest one of the group consisting of Gmv11, Gmv12 and  $(0.5 \cdot P10)$ ; and
- 5 adding gain in amount of MIN to the sub-channel having  $MSE_{max}$  and subtracting gain in amount of MIN from the sub-channel having  $MSE_{min}$ .
9. A swapping technique selector for selecting an optimal swapping technique from a group consisting of a bit-swapping and a gain-swapping techniques in a discrete
- 10 multi-tone (DMT) system having multiple sub-channels, gain factor constraints, and a threshold index value (T) and a maximum mean square error ( $MSE_{max}$ ) and a minimum mean square error ( $MSE_{min}$ ), the swapping technique selector comprising:
- a performance improvement pre-calculator for determining a first index value (I)
- 15 and a second index value (J) based on  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $MSE_{min}$  and said gain factor constraints according to a predetermined manner, I denoting range of improvement when adopting the gain-swapping as the optimal swapping technique, and J denoting range of improvement when adopting a combination of the gain-swapping and the bit-swapping as the optimal swapping technique;
- 20 a threshold comparator, connected to the performance improvement pre-calculator, for determining whether the larger one of I and J is larger than T;
- a performance improvement comparator, connected to the threshold comparator, for selectively determining whether I is equal to or larger than J; and
- a swapping technique selection device, connected to the performance

improvement comparator, for selecting either the gain-swapping or the combination of gain-swapping and bit-swapping as the optimal swapping technique.

10. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum  
5 gain factor constraint ( $G_{cm}$ ) and a minimum gain factor constraint ( $G_{cn}$ ),  $g_{max}$   
denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the  
sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ , said predetermined manner comprises the steps of:  
obtaining a first gain margin value ( $G_{mv1}$ ) by subtracting  $g_{max}$  from  $G_{cm}$ , and  
obtaining a second gain margin value ( $G_{mv2}$ ) by subtracting  $G_{cn}$  from  $g_{min}$ ;  
10 obtaining a first parameter ( $P1$ ) by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  from  $MSE_{max}$ ; and  
obtaining the I by doubling a smallest one of the group consisting of  $G_{mv1}$ ,  $G_{mv2}$   
and  $(0.5*P1)$ .

11. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum  
15 gain factor constraint ( $G_{cm}$ ) and a minimum gain factor constraint ( $G_{cn}$ ),  $g_{max}$   
denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the  
sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denotes an arithmetic average of  $MSE_{max}$   
and  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping and  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{max}$  after bit-swapping,  
and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is smaller than  $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the  
20 steps of:  
obtaining a third gain margin value ( $G_{mv3}$ ) by subtracting  $G_{cn}$  from  $g_{max}$ , and  
obtaining a fourth gain margin value ( $G_{mv4}$ ) by subtracting  $g_{min}$  from  $G_{cm}$ ;  
obtaining a second parameter ( $P2$ ) by subtracting  $MSE_{maxbs}$  from  $MSE_{minbs}$ ;  
obtaining a third parameter ( $P3$ ) by subtracting  $MSE_{maxbs}$  and a smallest one of the

group, consisting of Gmv3, Gmv4 and  $(0.5 \cdot P2)$ , from  $MSE_{avgbs}$ ; and  
obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  and  $(2 \cdot P3)$  from  $MSE_{max}$ .

12. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum  
5 gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{max}$   
denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the  
sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denotes the arithmetic average of  
 $MSE_{max}$  and  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping and  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{max}$  after bit-  
swapping and  $MSE_{minbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is not  
10 smaller than  $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:  
obtaining a fifth gain margin value (Gmv5) by subtracting  $g_{max}$  from Gcm, and  
obtaining a sixth gain margin value (Gmv6) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{min}$ ;  
obtaining a fourth parameter (P4) by subtracting  $MSE_{minbs}$  from  $MSE_{maxbs}$ ;  
obtaining a fifth parameter (P5) by subtracting  $MSE_{avgbs}$  and a smallest one of the  
15 group, consisting of Gmv5, Gmv6 and  $(0.5 \cdot P4)$ , from  $MSE_{maxbs}$ ; and  
obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{min}$  and  $(2 \cdot P5)$  from  $MSE_{max}$ .

13. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum  
gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{max}$   
20 denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{max}$ ,  $g_{min}$  denotes the gain of the  
sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{min}$ ,  $MSE_{avgbs}$  denotes the arithmetic average of  $MSE_{max}$   
and  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{max}$  after bit-swapping,  
 $MSE_{minbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{min}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{maxbs}$  is smaller than  
 $MSE_{avgbs}$ , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

obtaining a seventh gain margin value (Gmv7) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{\max}$ , and  
 obtaining a eighth gain margin value (Gmv8) by subtracting  $g_{\min}$  from Gcm;  
 obtaining a sixth parameter (P6) by subtracting  $MSE_{\maxbs}$  from  $MSE_{\minbs}$ ;  
 obtaining a seventh parameter (P7) by subtracting a smallest one of the group  
 5 consisting of Gmv7, Gmv8 and  $(0.5*P6)$  and  $MSE_{\text{avgbs}}$  from  $MSE_{\minbs}$ ; and  
 obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{\min}$  and  $(2*P7)$  from  $MSE_{\max}$ .

14. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum  
 gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn),  $g_{\max}$   
 10 denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting  $MSE_{\max}$ ,  $g_{\min}$  denotes the gain of the  
 channel respecting  $MSE_{\min}$ ,  $MSE_{\text{avgbs}}$  denotes the arithmetic average of  $MSE_{\max}$  and  
 $MSE_{\min}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{\maxbs}$  denotes  $MSE_{\max}$  after bit-swapping,  $MSE_{\minbs}$   
 denotes  $MSE_{\min}$  after bit-swapping, and as  $MSE_{\maxbs}$  is not smaller than  $MSE_{\text{avgbs}}$ ,  
 the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:  
 15 obtaining a ninth gain margin value (Gmv 9) by subtracting  $g_{\max}$  from Gcm, and  
 obtaining a tenth gain margin value (Gmv10) by subtracting Gcn from  $g_{\min}$ ;  
 obtaining a eighth parameter (P8) by subtracting  $MSE_{\minbs}$  from  $MSE_{\maxbs}$ ;  
 obtaining a ninth parameter (P9) by subtracting  $MSE_{\minbs}$  and a smallest one of the  
 group consisting of Gmv9, Gmv10 and  $(0.5*P8)$  from  $MSE_{\text{avgbs}}$ ; and  
 20 obtaining the J by subtracting  $MSE_{\min}$  and  $(2*P9)$  from  $MSE_{\max}$ .